

I have just enjoyed serving with you. I can't tell you how much I'm going to miss you. It's going to be a lot. I know you're going to miss everybody here as well. But we are all so much better for having served with you.

Thank you.

#### HONORING IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, what does an Irish Pennsylvania boy have to do with IKE SKELTON standing up here and talking? Actually, I have roots in Missouri. In Farmington, my ancestor, Sarah Barton Murphy, started the first Saturday school west of the Mississippi in Missouri. And that was a little story I told IKE. I don't know if he remembers it.

But it comes from times that IKE and I traveled together on congressional delegation trips. He had asked me to travel with him to Afghanistan and Iraq at Thanksgiving—we did that twice—giving up time with our families by traveling out there to be with the soldiers. Small codels as they were, but I think they meant a lot certainly to the soldiers that were sacrificing so much for our country. And I thought it pretty amazing that here was this gentleman, in the truest sense of the word, being willing to giving up his holidays with family to be over there, and I was certainly pleased and honored to go with him.

And we had some interesting times. A meeting with General Petraeus, a meeting with General McChrystal, seeing the ins and outs of what takes place in a war zone, talking to soldiers in the most candid ways about the stress that they face. And I know, for me, I learned a great deal from them, but I also learned a great deal from my friend, Congressman SKELTON, about the ins and outs of what takes place in the military through his chairmanship and ranking membership of what he's learned from the House Armed Services Committee.

But there's also things you learn about a person under times of stress.

IKE and I have the dubious distinction of being the only two Members of Congress ever injured in Iraq, and it happened on a dark night. We were traveling, after having met, I believe, with General Casey, on a road back to the Baghdad Airport when this up-armored minibus we were traveling in—referred to affectionately as an ice cream truck—suddenly hit something. We heard a boom. We're up in the air, bounced, rolled over the side, and both of us slid inside the interior. I was injured a bit. That doesn't matter. IKE had his own symptoms. And a lot of chaos occurred at that moment. And we learned what happens on a military site when there's an injury that occurs, that soldiers are swarming around securing the perimeter, ambulances ar-

iving trying to take care of both IKE and me at that moment. An incredible dedication and skill of these soldiers. We had intended to visit a hospital but not in a horizontal position.

What occurred afterwards, taking us in an ambulance, and we're both in some pain—nothing compared to what our soldiers face. But an interesting little thing happened with one of the staffers at that point. Erin reached in and patted my toe and said, "I'll pray for you." And the ambulance door closed. And IKE, always a man of good humor, said, What am I? Chopped liver? What's wrong here? No one's going to pray for me? He had issues, too.

We went to a hospital then in Baghdad. Some difficult moments. Hearing the cries of a young boy whose room was near ours who, we understand, his parents had just been killed, and he was hurt, too.

And then traveling over to Balad where our soldiers who were wounded pretty severely were all being prepped to take to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany, and to see what takes place as people with some pretty severe injuries were prepared, sometimes on basically a traveling intensive care unit with doctors and nurses around them.

And IKE and I are both on our helicopter trip over there. And having those moments when you're lying on this litter on this same helicopter that carries so many of our wounded soldiers, it gives you something to think about. And of course traveling over to Landstuhl on this big C-17 for several hours' flight.

But now and then I would hear this voice coming from either above me or below me, wherever we happened to be on that particular flight, there's the voice of IKE saying, Well, what do you think about this? Well, we're learning something here. Always just that little bit of humor and putting that little bit of perspective on an otherwise pretty stressful situation—not only of what was happening to us but being around all of these wounded and all of these doctors and nurses doing so much.

I'm sure IKE has lots of variations on the stories he tells, but what is important to hear is, after we came back, he had of course made sure that that one staffer who tapped my toe and said "I'll pray for you" understood that he wanted prayers, too. And it was some time after that, I believe, IKE, that what you received was a note that a mass was being said for you by the Pope. So you certainly outranked me on what was happening there.

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But it's his humor, it's his knowledge, it's his incredible class. A lot of times Americans may hear criticisms of Members of Congress. And you may hear the bipartisan attacks on each other, which is hardly bipartisan. That makes the evening news. When people call each other names, when they insult each other, when they play political games, that's going to make the

front page. What you don't hear about is the genuine friendships and respect we have for each other.

And let me tell you, IKE, I can't think of anybody in this House that I have more friendship and respect for than what you have taught me. The people of Missouri ought to be real proud that you served them for so long. I know they are. And I am mighty proud to have had the honor to serve with you, and a man that I can always call my friend. God bless you and thank you.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. There is a button from an old Presidential campaign that says, "I Like IKE." In this case, I love IKE. We will have to have a new button to talk about IKE SKELTON. I arrived in the House 4 years ago on the Armed Services Committee, met IKE SKELTON, and recognized immediately that he wasn't just a friend of the generals and a friend of the powerful; he was a friend to everybody. And I had the great pleasure of traveling with him. And I saw the way he treated the very, very young soldiers.

And having been married to a young soldier at one time in my life, I recognized how overwhelming it was when anybody above the rank of sergeant spoke to young men and women. And here was the chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the United States of America bending over to get some words of advice from the young men and women of this country who serve us. And that has stuck with me, IKE.

It's true that you are an incredible scholar, a historian. If IKE says it's so, it is so. And he often told us what was so. And he gave us lists to read and things that we should do and things that we should know. And he was always right about that. And when I traveled with him abroad, the respect that we all received because we were with IKE SKELTON was absolutely impressive and overwhelming.

And so to say good-bye is extremely painful, but I think what we really need to do is celebrate the great gift that you gave this country, the gift that your family gave this country, the gift of you, your time, your knowledge, your experience, your wisdom. And the way the rest of the world views you is the way we view you, with tremendous respect, and admiration, and love. Thank you very much for your service.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, for being so generous with this hour. To our chairman, IKE SKELTON, thank you. Thank you very much.

What I have learned, sitting for 14 years, my full time here in the Congress on this committee, has been invaluable. And you were actually the first to ask me to go on a congressional delegation, the first to take me before some of the world leaders, the first to tell me about what it was to be in the military. And all the information you gave me, "Learn the ranks, LORETTA. Learn what a star means. Learn what two stars mean." Just all the very beginning information 14 years ago when I got to the committee, I cannot say enough, IKE. I really can't.

Aside from being somebody who has loved the troops, and you have, and I have seen that just as my colleague, Mrs. DAVIS, and I sitting on the Personnel Subcommittee have seen that from you, aside from really being the champion for the troops, and that's how I will always remember you, you are really a Congressperson's Congressperson. You are somebody that we model ourselves after.

And, IKE, from the bottom of my heart, we will miss you. Thank you. Thank you for all the memories, for all the learning, and in particular for taking some of the women on the committee under your arm and showing us what it is to serve proudly on the House Armed Services Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Number one, I want to thank Mr. AKIN for allowing us to go into your time a little bit. As a fellow Missourian, it's obviously time well spent.

Mr. Speaker, I have a Vietnamese American friend who has a limited use of the English language. He is also very devout. I once saw him at his boatyard hit his thumb with a 5-pound maul. And having a limited use of the English language and also being very devout, he did not use the kinds of words I would use in that situation. He just shouted over and over as he was shaking his thumb, "No joy." This is a "no joy" moment.

For those of us who have had the privilege of working with IKE, we want to say thank you. If you are the mother or father of a troop, a marine, a coastie, a sailor, you should know about IKE SKELTON. You should know his name. In our line of work, if you do something stupid, you are a headline. If you do the right thing, people don't know your name.

But if your child has been saved because of a mine-resistant vehicle, you

should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a military retiree who is enjoying the benefits of TRICARE for life, you should know IKE SKELTON's name. If you are a guardsman or Reservist who is now eligible for TRICARE, you should know IKE SKELTON's name.

What he won't ever tell you, out of concern for his kids, and I won't tell you the branch, but he has two sons who are officers in the United States military. But what every mom and dad should know is that there was one more parent out there looking out for their kids, and that was IKE SKELTON.

So, IKE, for all of those things and for your great humility, I got to tell the story. IKE visited a Coast Guard buoy tender on the Missouri River. And given his nature, obviously he paid his respects to the captain, engineering officer. But then he sought out the lowest-ranked person on that boat, a seaman apprentice. Went back to him and said, Hi, how are you doing? I am IKE SKELTON. I am a Congressman from Missouri. How do you like the Coast Guard? I do. He said, Have you ever had a Congressman on your buoy tender before? And the kid said, No, and I hope to hell we never do again. They have been working my butt off for the past 2 weeks scraping and painting, getting this boat ready for you, sir.

Now, only IKE SKELTON would tell that story about himself. So now the rest of America knows. And I hope that seaman apprentice is listening tonight, and I hope he made chief one day.

But, IKE, you have been an incredible role model. Someone who put together a \$600 billion bill that involved the lives of airmen, marines, sailors, and to some extent coasties, certainly the troops in the field, and it passed out of your committee unanimously. That is an incredible feat. And all of us are grateful for your service. God bless you.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It was 13 months ago that I was given the great privilege of becoming a Member of the Congress. And it was 7 months ago that I was given another privilege of becoming a member of the Armed Services Committee. For the last hour and 10 minutes, we have heard from Chairman SKELTON and from his colleagues that have expressed their appreciation based upon their knowledge and their experiences of working with an extraordinary man.

I feel cheated that I don't have all of those years that my other colleagues have had to learn and to share time with Chairman SKELTON. My 7 months have been just too short; but in those 7 months, I have found the opportunity for friendship, brotherhood, and the op-

portunity to work and to be mentored by an incredible individual.

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What you have seen here tonight is the outpouring of emotion and respect for a gentleman that has served this Nation and the armed services for 34 years in the capacity of a Member of Congress. That's an incredible record. Seven months of that I have had a personal experience of, and I value those moments intensely.

I have had my hours on the floor talking about policy. I have not had such an important hour as this hour listening to the Members of this Congress speak of one of their colleagues. It has been a very good hour.

Chairman SKELTON, you are loved, beloved, for a very good reason. You are a unique individual.

#### HONORING IKE SKELTON

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to add my note to the already numerous congratulations and praises for Chairman SKELTON. I have served my 10 years in Congress on the Armed Services Committee. I told him the night before last at a reception that I thought that IKE was like my big brother down here.

You know, sometimes as we go on CODELS in the field, and we can talk to different level officers, sometimes it's a sergeant, sometimes it's a general, sometimes it's in between, how we get different answers, and sometimes a well-placed question to the right person is very helpful. I am a Republican, and sometimes a well-placed question to a Democrat is a very smart thing to do.

I will ask IKE, I say, I think I have got a bright idea, IKE, but what do you think of it? And he will tell me sometimes, TODD, that's the dumbest thing I ever heard. And sometimes he says that would be a good thing if you can get that done. Because IKE is like a big brother. He is a big brother to everybody down here.

IKE runs a committee the way I understand it used to be done, where the objective is to deal with the security of our country, and that is the business of the committee.

So I thank you very much for your great work down here. We are going to miss you a lot, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Marine, and my big brother.

God bless you and Godspeed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4853, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. POLIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report